

Global Plastics Industry Comments on the “Business Case for a UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution”

The global plastics industry supports addressing the challenge of plastic waste and marine plastic debris through sustainable consumption and production, design innovation, and infrastructure investment. Private sector, government, and civil society collaboration are needed to identify and replicate solutions at scale.

We agree with the objective and many of the recommendations included in the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), Boston Consulting Group (BCG) [Business Case for a UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution](#). We strongly support establishing a targeted goal of eliminating leakage of plastic into the ocean by a specific date. We believe this goal provides a clear objective for countries, industry, and stakeholders.

The global plastics industry supports development of a global agreement to eliminate plastic waste in our environment and ocean. Such an agreement will have to be carefully crafted to ensure success and achievement of other [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Below are key actions from the report supported by the global plastics industry, as well as areas of concern.

We Support:

- Globally Harmonized Definitions & Reporting
 - o Harmonizing definitions across markets will support development of sustainable products and provide much needed consistency
 - o Establishing common methods for countries to collect and report data are essential to creating a baseline from which to measure progress towards eliminating plastic waste in the environment
- Global Guidance on Development of Standards
 - o Supporting development of harmonized regional or national standards, (e.g. use of recycled content, sustainability by design principles), will help reduce supply chain costs and facilitate compliance, while allowing flexibility for countries with varying national or regional conditions
- National Action Plans
 - o Requiring countries to develop national waste management plans is key to preventing waste from getting into the environment
 - o Providing countries with flexibility to develop national plans is essential to enable consideration of local circumstances and stakeholder input
 - o Developing national plans provides a mechanism to assess current infrastructure, including access to environmentally sound waste management and to identify gaps in the system
 - o Identifying funding needs through national plans helps match funders with projects

Areas of Concern:

- Global restrictions on plastic products should be avoided
 - o Removing flexibility for countries to adopt regulations that fit their national circumstances may adversely impact SDGs (e.g. reducing access to clean water, increasing food waste, increasing climate impacts) and drive further inequities between developed and developing countries

As countries move forward with development of a new global agreement, the plastics industry agrees with many elements of the WWF, EMF, BCG report. Consulting business, industry associations, and other stakeholders to identify and then implement regionally appropriate measures is critical to achieving the goal of eliminating leakage of plastic into the environment by 2050.